

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026.

[24]

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Monday, March 16, 2026.

Met according to adjournment at eleven o'clock A.M., in an Informal Session, with Mr. Donato of Medford in the Chair (having been appointed by the Speaker, under authority conferred by Rule 5, to perform the duties of the Chair).

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Donato), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of
allegiance.

Communications.

Communications

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see Section 35EEE(d) of Chapter 10 of the General Laws) submitting the Municipal Police Training Fund legislative report for fiscal year 2023;

Municipal
police training
fund.

From the Department of Mental Health (see Section 35 of Chapter 123 of the General Laws) submitting its annual report of facilities other than the Massachusetts Correctional Institution at Bridgewater being used for treatment of certain males and the number of persons so committed to such facilities for calendar year 2024;

Corrections
facilities,—
treatment.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 8200-0222 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Municipal Police Training Fund report on the status of recruit training for fiscal year 2025;

Municipal
police,—
recruits.

From the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (see item 8200-0222 of Section 2 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024) submitting the Municipal Police Training Fund report on the status of recruit training for fiscal years 2023 and 2024; and

Id.

From the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (see Section 1 of Chapter 334 of the Acts of 2006) submitting its annual report on Data Collection for Government Assisted Housing in Massachusetts for fiscal year 2025;

Assisted
housing,—
data collection.

Severally were placed on file.

Annual Report.

The annual report of the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office (under Section 99R of Chapter 272 of the General Laws) submitting a report relative to wiretaps for calendar year 2025, was placed on file.

Cape and
Islands,—
wiretaps.

Petition.

Representative McKenna of Sutton and Senator Fattman presented a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5261) of Joseph D. McKenna, Ryan C. Fattman and Paul K. Frost (by vote of the town) for legislation to amend the town charter in the town of Oxford; and the same was referred to the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Oxford,—
charter.

Paper from the Senate.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 3017) of Nick Collins (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to direct the city of Boston police department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Elijah George Osborne, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Public Service.

Boston,—
Elijah
Osborne.

Reports of Committees.

By Mr. Honan of Boston, for the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, that the following bills be scheduled for consideration by the House:

The Senate Bill establishing residency requirements for the offices of mayor, city councilor and school committee in the city of Brockton (Senate, No. 2957) [Local Approval Received];

Brockton,—
residency.

House bills

Relative to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (House, No. 729);

Education board.
Noncompetition
agreements.

Relative to noncompetition agreements in the Commonwealth (House, No. 2118);

Amending chapter 445 of the acts of 1960 and establishing a board of election commissioners in the city of Salem (House, No. 3907) [Local Approval Received];

Salem,—
election board.

Relative to fresh fruits and vegetables in schools (House, No. 4059);

Produce.

Relative to preliminary elections in the town of Longmeadow (House, No. 4309) [Local Approval Received];

Longmeadow,—
elections.

Providing for recall elections in the town of Charlemont (House, No. 4434) [Local Approval Received];

Charlemont,—
recall elections.

Regulating elections in the town of Conway (House, No. 4498) [Local Approval Received];

Conway,—
elections.

Authorizing remote participation at town meetings and special town meetings in the town of Concord (House, No. 4522) [Local Approval Received];

Concord,—
town meetings.

Authorizing the town of North Attleborough to establish a means-tested senior citizen property tax exemption (House, No. 4526) [Local Approval Received].

North
Attleborough.

Regarding special meetings of the Holyoke City Council (House, No. 4738) [Local Approval Received];

Holyoke,—
special meetings.

Relative to consumer rights of renters (House, No. 5095);

Tenants' rights.

Relative to extending the timeframe within which the town of Southbridge may grant additional licenses for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5096) [Local Approval Received];

Southbridge,—
liquor
licenses.

Authorizing the town of Raynham to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises (House, No. 5099) [Local Approval Received]; and

Raynham,—
liquor
license.

Relative to the town of Reading Home Rule Charter (House, No. 5102) [Local Approval Received];

Reading,—
charter.

Under suspension of Rule 7A, in each instance, on motion of Mr. Wong of Saugus, the bills severally were read a second time forthwith; and they were ordered to a third reading.

By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, for the committee on Public Health, on House, No. 453, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Public Health to make an

Dietitians and
nutritionists,—
study.

investigation and study of a certain House document relative to licensure of dietitians and nutritionists (House, No. 5233).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 1374, 1389, 2222, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2365, 2368, 2373, 2377, 2379, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2409, 2411, 2413, 2415, 2419, 2420, 2422, 2423, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2435, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2448, 2452, 2453, 2456, 2457, 2460, 2461, 2468, 2469, 2471, 2472, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2494, 2496, 2502, 2507, 2509, 2511, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2522, 2524, 2533, 2534, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2542, 2543, 2556, 2558, 2560, 2561, 2562, 3955, 3956, 3957, 3958, 3960, 4022, 4023, 4024, 4025, 4048, 4070, 4075, 4076, 4077, 4078, 4118, 4119, 4120, 4121, 4122 and 4165, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Public Health to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to death certificates, children's health, food safety and other public health issues (House, No. 5234).

Death certificates, children's health, etc.,—study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 2376, 2418, 2431, 2449, 2458, 2492, 2493, 2495, 2512, 2541, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2555, 2559, 3954 and 3961, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Public Health to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to medical procedures, vaccinations, public health systems and other public health issues (House, No. 5235) [Representative Thurber of Somerset dissenting].

Medical procedures, vaccinations, public health systems and other health issues,—study.

By Mr. Madaro of Boston, for the committee on Revenue, on House, Nos. 3012 and 4008, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Revenue to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to fines and local taxes (House, No. 5236).

Fines and local taxes,—study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 3021, 3034, 3035, 3036, 3046, 3069, 3077, 3095, 3101, 3116, 3138, 3140, 3209, 3226, 3228, 3231, 3242, 3250 and 3252, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Revenue to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to veterans, seniors and agriculture (House, No. 5237).

Veterans, seniors and agriculture,—study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 3030, 3032, 3064, 3076, 3083, 3136, 3145, 3146, 3152, 3185, 3186, 3196, 3264, 3276 and 3277, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Revenue to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to certain revenue petitions pertaining to taxation and tax payments (House, No. 5238).

Taxation and tax payments,—study.

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 3153 and 4128, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Revenue to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to certain revenue petitions relative to income and estates (House, No. 5239).

Income and estates,—study.

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Subsequently, Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committees, reported, in each instance, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the orders; and recommending that the same severally be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

The following reports were received, the time within which the said committees were required to report having expired:

By Mr. Saunders of Belchertown, for the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, on House, Nos. 114, 122 and 140, an Order relative to authorizing the

Cottage foods and pet cemeteries,—

committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to cottage foods and pet cemeteries (House, No. 5241).

By the same member, for the same committee, on House, Nos. 115, 131, 133, 134, 135 and 137, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Agriculture and Fisheries to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to fisheries, farms and other related matters (House, No. 5242).

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, for the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, on House, Nos. 216, 260 and 4194, an Order relative to authorizing the committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities to make an investigation and study of certain House documents relative to housing assistance, resettlement and social service programs (House, No. 5240).

Severally referred, under Joint Rule 29, to the committees on Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

Subsequently, Mr. Galvin of Canton, for said committees, reported, in each instance, asking to be discharged from further consideration of the orders; and recommending that the same severally be referred to the House committee on Rules.

Under Rule 42, the reports severally were considered forthwith; and they were accepted.

By Mr. Lewis of Framingham, for the committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, on a petition, a Bill to amend the operations of the city of Boston Finance Commission to establish the Boston Inspector General Oversight Commission (House, No. 4924) [Local Approval Received].

By Mr. Ryan of Boston, for the committee on Public Service, on a joint petition, a Bill establishing a sick leave bank for Courtney Cochran, an employee of the Department of Children & Families (DCF) (House, No. 5245).

Severally read; and referred, under Rule 7A, to the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling.

A report of the committee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, under the last sentence of Rule 7A, that the Bill providing for tribal government representation on the Martha's Vineyard commission (Senate, No. 1431), be scheduled for consideration by the House. Placed in the Orders of the Day for the next sitting for a second reading.

Emergency Measure.

The engrossed Bill validating the results of the annual election held in the town of Bourne on May 20, 2025 (see House bill printed in House, No. 4763), having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, was considered, the question being on adopting the emergency preamble.

A separate vote was taken, as required by the provisions of Article XLVIII (as amended by Article LXVII) of the Amendments to the Constitution; and the preamble was adopted, by a vote of 3 to 0. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Subsequently, the Senate having concurred in adoption of the emergency preamble, the bill (which originated in the House) was passed to be enacted (more than two-thirds of the members having agreed to pass the same); and it was signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

study.

Fisheries, farms and other related matters,— study.

Housing, resettlement and social service programs,— study.

Boston,— inspector general.

Courtney Cochran,— sick leave.

Martha's Vineyard commission.

Bourne,— election.

Bill enacted.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

Engrossed Bills.

Engrossed bills

Enhancing certain powers of the board of water commissioners of the Cotuit Fire District (see House, No. 2258);

Authorizing the Cotuit Fire District to raise and appropriate money for the Historical Society of Santuit and Cotuit, Inc. (see House, No. 2259); and

Further regulating the composition of the licensing board for the city of Salem (see House, No. 4007);

(Which severally originated in the House);

Severally having been certified by the Clerk to be rightly and truly prepared for final passage, were passed to be enacted; and they were signed by the acting Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Bills
enacted.

Orders of the Day.

House bills

Directing the city of Boston Police Department to waive the maximum age requirement for police officers for Constantinos Papadopoulos (House, No. 4267); and

Directing the City of Boston Fire Department to waive the maximum age requirement for firefighters for Stylianos Katikakis (House, No. 4582);

Severally reported by the committee on Bills in the Third Reading to be correctly drawn, were read a third time; and they were passed to be engrossed. Sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Third
reading
bills.

The House Bill authorizing the Dalton Fire District to continue the employment of interim fire chief Christopher Francis Cachat (House, No. 4321), was read a second time; and it was ordered to a third reading.

Second
reading bill.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Mariano of Quincy,—

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Wednesday next at eleven o'clock A.M.

Next
sitting.

At twenty-three minutes after eleven o'clock A.M., on motion of Mr. Pease of Westfield (Mr. Donato of Medford being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Wednesday at eleven o'clock A.M.